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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT

OF

HOLME

FOR 1937.



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Holme Urban District.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1937.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

In presenting my annual report for the year 1937 I have complied with the instructions and form laid down in Circular 1650 of the Ministry of Health, dated 4th October, 1937.

APPENDIX I.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area	3,164 acres.
Population (Estimated 1935)	318
Number of inhabited houses	109
Rateable Value	£4,451
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£18 10s. 0d.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

	Total	M.	F.
LIVE BIRTHS	6	3	3
Legitimate	6	3	3
Illegitimate... ..	0	0	0
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	18.86		
STILL BIRTHS	1	0	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births. ...	142.8		
DEATHS	2	2	0
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	6.28		
Adjusted " " "	5.08		
	Rate per 1,000		
	Deaths.	Births.	
Deaths from Puerperal Causes... ..	0	0	
From Puerperal Sepsis... ..	0	0	
From other Puerperal causes	0	0	

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 live births	0
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General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the sanitary authority or by the County Council:

A 1. FEVER.—These cases are treated at the Colne and Holme Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital at Meltham.

2. SMALL POX.—Provision for the treatment of Small Pox is made at the special hospital for this disease situate at Moor Top, a branch of the above named fever hospital. Solitary cases of Small Pox have been sent to the Huddersfield Corporation Small Pox Hospital at Mill Hill, by arrangement with the Huddersfield Medical Officer of Health.

B 1. TUBERCULOSIS. — Sanatorium treatment of Tuberculosis is carried out in the various West Riding County Council Sanatoria.

2. MATERNITY.—There is a special ward with five beds for maternity cases at the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital, Thongsbridge.

3. CHILDREN.—No special provision.

4. ORTHOPÆDIC.—No special provision.

5. OTHER. — (a) General. — The General hospital for the district is the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, nine miles away. This institution is supported by endowment and voluntary subscriptions. (b) Cottage.—The Holme Valley Memorial Hospital at Thongs Bridge contains 34 beds. It is supported by voluntary subscriptions, and is under the management of a local committee.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children in the area.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For Infectious Cases.—From the Isolation Hospital.

(b) For Non - Infectious and Accident Cases.—No special provision. Private ambulances can be obtained from Huddersfield and Holmfirth.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The School Clinic is under the control of the West Riding County Officials.

There are no Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries, Orthopædic Clinics or Artificial Light Clinics in the district.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary of the West Riding County Council is at Huddersfield.

There is a treatment centre for Venereal Diseases at the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

The Public Health Officers of the Local Authority are a part-time Medical Officer of Health and a part-time Sanitary Inspector. Scavengers are detailed to such duties as are required by the Surveyor.

The Food Inspectors, Health Visitors and Special Nurses are provided by the County Council.

Nursing in the Home.

- (a) General.—The District Nurse from Holmfirth now attends cases in the district on the instructions of the doctor in charge of the case. She is under the supervision of a Ladies' Committee in connection with the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital, Thongsbridge.

In cases of severe illness a Nurse would be provided for a child of necessitous parents by the Infant Welfare Centre at Huddersfield.

- (b) Infectious Diseases.—In case of a serious epidemic of infectious disease, such as Measles, a nurse would be provided by the West Riding County Council.

Midwives.

The Maternity Nurse from Holmfirth attends cases in the district. She is under the supervision of a Ladies' Committee in connection with the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

Private patients can be accommodated in special wards at the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital, Thongsbridge, which is registered as a Nursing Home.

Maternal Mortality.

The investigation of maternal deaths and cases of puerperal fever is carried out by the local Medical Officer of Health in conjunction with the Medical Practitioner in charge of the case.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

The undermentioned is a list of the Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws, etc., in force in the District.

Local Bye-Laws were made by the Holme Urban District Council in September, 1902 and approved by the Local Government Board on September 25th, 1902.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The water supply of the district has been satisfactory in both quantity and quality during 1937. No restrictions of the supply were necessary.

Rivers and Streams—Pollution thereof.

No action has been taken or required of the Local Authority to check the pollution of rivers and streams in the area.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During 1937 five hundred yards of 6in. sewers were laid connecting the main Holme sewers at Turf Gate to the Holmfirth sewer at Wheatclose. This was to do away with the unsatisfactory cesspool at Turf Gate. Fifty-seven yards of 4in. pipes were also laid to connect up some houses to the main sewers.

Closet Accommodation.

During 1937 one privy midden has been converted to the water carriage system and five additional water closets provided for old property. One water closet has also been provided for new property. The total closet accommodation for the district is now 35 privy middens and 80 water closets.

Shops.

Six inspections were paid under the Shops Act, 1934, Sections 10 and 13 (3), and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Smoke Abatement.

There are no factories in the district.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are none in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action has been taken or required.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

T. S. Davy, Esq., M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health, Holme U.D.C.

Dear Sir,

I herewith furnish statement of sanitary work done, coming under my supervision during 1937.

Dairies and Cowsheds:—

Number of inspections made during 1937	32
Number of Cowsheds registered	8

Nuisances:—

Number of inspections made during 1937	78
Number reported during 1937	15
Number in hand at close of 1936	0
Number needing abatement	15
Number abated during 1937	15
Number outstanding at the end of 1937	0
Number of notices served informal	15
Number of notices complied with informal	15

Drainage and Sewerage:—

Number of lineal yards of 6in. sewers laid	50
Number of lineal yards of 4in. sewers laid	57

Closet Accommodation:—

Number of Pail Closets at close of 1937	0
Number of Privies with covered middens	35
Number of Privies converted into Water Closets	1
Number of additional Water Closets provided to old property	5
Number of additional Water Closets provided to new property	1
Number of Water Closets in district at the end of 1937	80

SCAVENGING.

There has been no change during 1937. This work is carried out by the Council.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

SAM BRAY,

Sanitary Inspector, Holme U.D.C.

HOUSING.

Number of new Houses erected during the year:—

(a) By the Local Authority	0
(b) By private enterprise	1
Total	1

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

Inspection.—(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	25
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	51
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing and Consolidated Regulations, 1925	25
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	5

2.—Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	2
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers.

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	0
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(B) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice	6
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were served	0
(3) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners, Section 19 (2)—	
(a) To render houses fit for human habitation	0
(b) As to usage other than for human habitation	0
(d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930:—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms closed in pursuance of Closing Orders	0
(3) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the closing orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit	0

4—Housing Act, 1935: Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	0
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	0
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	8
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0
(e) Any other particulars	0

Housing.

The general standard of housing in the district is good for a rural area. There was one totally unfit house in the district which the owner was repairing. This work was almost completed by the end of the year. It was held up as the tenant had to find other accommodation before the work could be done. Five houses were found not to be reasonably fit for human habitation in all respects, and two of these had been rendered fit by the end of the year as a result of informal action on the part of the Housing Inspector.

It has not been necessary for the Local Authority to build any new houses. There is no real shortage of houses in the district.

There was one case of overcrowding at the end of 1936. This case has been relieved, as the Local Authority have provided accommodation in a farm owned by them. There is now no overcrowding in the district.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Inspections of Farms and Cowsheds are carried out by the County Veterinary Officer and the Sanitary Inspector several times a year. Eight farms were visited. The health and cleanliness of the cows was good, but the cowsheds structurally are not up to the standard. In two cases it was found that a horse was being kept in the cowshed.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

There are no slaughter houses in the area.

(c) Adulteration, etc.

No action has been taken by the Local Authority. The Officers of the W.R.C.C. attend to this.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

This is done by the W.R.C.C. Officers or by the Public Analyst, Huddersfield.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Only two cases of infectious disease were notified during the year. These were of Scarlet Fever, both children, aged 12 and 7 years respectively in the same family at the same time. They attended different schools in Holmfirth. Both were removed to hospital and recovered.

General.

No special action has been required in regard to the diseases notifiable under the Regulations of 28th October, 1927.

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are sent to the West Riding County Council Laboratory at Wakefield, when necessary, by the medical practitioner in charge of the case.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Local Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health Regulations, 1927.

The premises occupied by all cases of infectious disease and all articles exposed to infection are disinfected by the Local Authority after removal or cure of the case.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There have been no fresh cases of Tuberculosis notified during 1937 and no deaths from this disease.

No action was taken or required under Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

APPENDIX II.

Statistics provided by the Registrar General.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Year	Birth		Death		Deaths	Rate
	No. of	Rate	No. of	Rate	under	per 1000
	Births.	per 1000.	Deaths.	per 1000.	1 yr.	Births.
1933.....	4	11.39	5	11.24	0	0
1934.....	2	5.64	2	5.64	0	0
1935.....	1	2.9	5	14.53	0	0
1936.....	3	8.98	5	14.97	0	0
1937.....	6	18.86	2	6.28	0	0

Births.

Six births have been registered during the year, of which three were males and three females; all legitimate. This gives a birth rate of 18.86 per 1,000 population, compared with a birth rate of 14.9 for England and Wales. There were as many births in 1937 as in the whole of the previous three years. One still birth, a female, legitimate, was registered. This gives a still birth rate of 142.8 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Deaths

Three deaths occurred in the district during 1937, of which two were males and one a female. The female death was of a person belonging to another district and was transferred out of the district. This gives a net total of two deaths, both males. The crude death rate is 6.28 per 1,000 population. The adjusted death rate is 5.08, compared with a death rate of 12.4 for the whole of England and Wales. Both deaths were in persons over the age of 65 years. Both were due to Heart Disease.

Infant Mortality.

There have again been no deaths amongst infants under one year of age.

Deaths due to or following Childbirth.

There were no deaths due to Puerperal causes in 1937.

Causes of Death in 1937.

The Registrar General's list of causes of death is as stated below:

Causes of Death.

M. F.

Typhoid Fever, etc.		
Measles		
Scarlet Fever		
Whooping Cough		
Diphtheria		
Influenza		
Encephalitis Lethargica		
Cerebro-Spinal Fever		
Respiratory Tuberculosis		
Other Tuberculosis		
Syphilis		
Gen. Paralysis of Insane, etc.		
Cancer		
Diabetes		
Cerebral Hæmorrhage		
Heart Disease	2	0
Aneurysm		
Other Circulatory		
Bronchitis		
Pneumonia		
Other Respiratory		
Peptic Ulcer		
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)		
Appendicitis		
Cirrhosis of Liver		
Other Liver Diseases		
Other Digestive		
Nephritis		
Puerperal Sepsis		
Other Puerperal		
Congenital Causes, etc.		
Senility		
Suicide		
Other Violence		
Other Defined Causes		
Ill defined Causes		

All causes 2 0

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

T. S. DAVY, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

